Paracetamol, Analgin, Ciproflixacin (groups), Metronidazole and Diclofenac Sodium etc. have been seriously affected. Besides this, one of the reasons of closure of the Public Sector Plant of M/s. IDPL at Rishikesh manufacturing Pencillin G, Ampicillin, Amoxycillin, Tetracycline and Oxytetracycline and their Hyderabad Plan manufacturing Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Folic Acid, Chloroquine Phosphate and Alpha Methyl Dopa is cheaper bulk drug imports from China. The Public Sector Plant of M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. manufacturing Penicillin has also been closed because of the same reason.

The Chinese bulk drugs are cheaper when compared to Indian products because of economies of scale, tariffs of power and tax structure etc.

The Government of India has been giving some protection by levying Anti-dumping/related duties. The Directorate General Anti Dumping under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, initiates proceedings wherever complaints are received by them of such dumping and if proved, levy anti-dumping duties. Besides this, registration for all imports of bulk drugs is compulsory with Drug Controller General (India) under the Foreign Trade Policy. Further, the Government is contemplating to revive IDPL and HAL.

Excise duty on drugs

1974. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the excise duty imposed on all the drugs are uniform in all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) In general, drugs, medicines attract excise duty @ 16%. However some full/partial exemptions/concessions from central excise duties on specified drugs and medicines are presently in force. Besides this, as per the decision earlier taken by the Government the Central Excise duty has been

exempted on manufactured goods including drugs, in notified areas of Uttaranchal, Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Kutch, and North Eastern state.

Mega chemical hub at Haldia

1975. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved setting up of a mega chemical hub at Haldia in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) how far this unit will contribute to the growth of the polyester and textile industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, assisted by Consultants is conducting a feasibility study for setting up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates at different locations in the country. Also, a Task Force on Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) has also been constituted in the Prime Minister's Office on 20.1.2006, in order to enable quick and coordinated decision making and to provide an appropriate policy framework for the development of investment regions of requisite scale and level of facilities, with the involvement of world class developers and investors, in the field of petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals. This Task Force will also finalize the number and location of PCPIRs. A definite time limit has not been fixed at this stage.

(c) Polyester and textile Industry need the following intermediates namely Purified teraphthalic acid (PTA)/Dimethyl teraphthalate (DMT) and Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) which are manufactured from Paraxylene and Ethylene which are produced from napththa feedstock. If the envisaged PCPIR/Mega Chemical Hub includes manufacture of these polyester textile intermediates the local availability of these chemicals will lead to the growth of Polyester textile industry.